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DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 11 February 1992, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/875-S/23570), the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People made the following statement:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express anguish and outrage at the death of Palestinians in Israeli custody and the systematic use of torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees by the Israeli authorities.

"The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) reported on 5 February 1992 that Mustapha al-Akawi, a 35-year old Jerusalem resident, died on 4 February, while under interrogation in Hebron Prison in the occupied West Bank. Akawi was detained on 22 January and was brought before the military court in Hebron for extension of detention upon the request of the Shin Beth (Israeli secret service). According to the report, the military judge, after ordering the detention of Akawi for another 8 days (and not for 30 days as requested by the Shin Beth), told Akawi's lawyer, Lea Tsemel, that Akawi had complained of having been beaten during interrogation and had shown the judge deep bruises on both of his arms and shoulders. The lawyer was not permitted to speak with Akawi during the period of his detention or during his court appearances. On 4 February, Akawi's father was summoned to the police station in Jerusalem, and in the father's presence, the father's lawyer telephoned Hebron Prison and learned of Akawi's death. The Israeli authorities provided no information on the cause of death.

"According to Agence France Presse (AFP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) indicated, on 5 February, that it was investigating the circumstances in which Mr. Akawi died in Hebron Prison. The representative of ICRC in Israel told AFP that five prisoners had died after interrogation in that prison since 1989.

"On 3 December 1991, PHRC issued a report documenting "systematic use of torture by electric shock against

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Palestinian detainees" by the Israelis during interrogation in the Hebron military headquarters. The shocks were applied by thin wires attached to the detainees' heads, necks, arms, legs and genitals. The report concluded that 'it is highly unlikely - indeed virtually impossible - that the actions of these interrogators in torturing detainees with electricity were not known by the interrogators' superiors, and possibly others'. All the Palestinians interviewed for the report had been subjected to other types of torture, including prolonged beating on various parts of their bodies, threats of execution, and forced witnessing of torture. According to this report, at least 10 Palestinians have died during interrogation since 1987.

"In a special report on the military justice system in the occupied territories, Amnesty International concluded, in July 1991, that 'the substantial evidence available indicates the existence of a clear pattern of systematic psychological and physical ill-treatment, constituting torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, which is being inflicted on (Palestinian) detainees during the course of interrogation.'

"In March 1991, Betzelem, the Israeli Information Centre on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published a report showing that a number of interrogation methods routinely used are prohibited by international human rights instruments, as well as by Israeli laws banning the use of force to extract confessions or information. The report detailed 11 illegal interrogation methods and was based on interviews with 41 Palestinians who had been subjected to such methods. It concluded that the operation of military justice, especially during the intifadah, has undermined the prohibitions and protection afforded by the legal system, particularly through the long periods of incommunicado detention without access to a lawyer and the wide powers given to the Shin Beth, which create a context in which ill-treatment of detainees can go unpunished.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People strongly condemns the use of physical and psychological torture against Palestinian detainees, which is in total violation of Israel's obligations under article 2 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading treatment or Punishment and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Israel ratified recently, as well as articles 31 and 32 of the Geneva Convention

relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

"The Committee therefore urgently appeals to you as well as all those concerned, and in particular the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture, which monitor implementation of the relevant treaties, as well as the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention, to see to it that all the necessary measures are taken in order to ensure that Israel desists forthwith from using illegal methods in its treatment of Palestinian detainees and respects its international obligations."

II. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTS THREE RESOLUTIONS ON THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

The Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-eighth session, adopted the following resolutions. Final edited text will appear in the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session, which will be issued in due course.

"1992/2. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

"A

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the provisions of the Universal declaration of Human Rights,

"Guided also by the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

"Taking into consideration the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the provisions of Additional Protocol I thereto, and the Hague Convention No. IV of 1907, as well as the principles of international law affirmed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 3 (I) of 13 February

1946, 95 (I) of 11 December 1946, 260 (III) A of 9 December 1948 and 2391 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968,

"Recalling the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 252 (1968) of 25 May 1968, 267 (1969) of 3 July 1969, 298 (1971) of 25 September 1971, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980,471 (1980) of 5 June 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988, 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988, 636 (1989) of 6 July 1989, 641 (1989) of 30 August 1989, 672 (1990) of 12 October 1990, 694 (1991) of 24 May 1991, and 726 (1992) of 6 January 1992,

"Recalling also the General Assembly resolutions on Israeli violations of human rights in occupied Palestine, since 1967 and until now,

"Taking note of the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Arab Occupied Territories submitted to the General Assembly since 1968, in particular its report of 1 February 1991 (A/46/65),

"Expressing its deep concern at the contents of the report by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. S. Amos Wako (E/CN.4/1991/36), regarding summary or arbitrary executions and the acts committed by Israel in this respect referred to in the report, in particular in paragraphs 290 to 296,

"Recalling all its previous resolutions on the subject,

"1. Condemns the policies and practices of Israel, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel with military force, including Jerusalem, and, in particular, such acts as the opening of fire by the Israeli army and settlers on Palestinian civilians that results in killing and wounding them, as has happened continuously since the eruption of the Palestinian people's intifadah against Israeli military occupation; the imposition of restrictive economic measures; the demolition of houses; the expropriation of houses as happened recently in Silwan village; the ransacking of property belonging individually or collectively to private persons; collective punishment; arbitrary and administrative detention of thousands of Palestinians; the confiscation of the property of Palestinians, including their bank accounts; the expropriation of land; the prevention of travel; the closure of universities and schools; the perpetration of crimes of torture in Israeli prisons and detention centres;

and the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory;

"2. Affirms the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation by all means, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as has been expressed by the Palestinian people in their brave intifadah since December 1987, in legitimate resistance against the Israeli military occupation;

"3. Calls once more upon Israel, the occupying Power, to desist from all forms of violation of human rights in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories and to respect the bases of international law, the principles of international humanitarian law, and its commitments to the provisions of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations;

"4. Calls upon Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights in this regard;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and of all other Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale, and to report on its implementation by the Government of Israel to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission on Human Rights with all United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that deal with the conditions in which the citizens of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories are living under the Israeli occupation;

"7. Decides to consider this question at its forty-ninth session as a matter of priority.

"27th meeting
"14 February 1992"

"B

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Recalling Security Council resolutions related to the applicability of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 to the Palestinian and other Arab occupied territories and the condemnation by the Security Council of Israel for its refusal to abide by these Conventions, particularly resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 592 (1986) of 8 December 1986, 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988, 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988, 636 (1989) of 6 July 1989, 641 (1989) of 30 August 1989, 672 (1990) of 12 October 1990, 694 (1991) of 24 May 1991 and 726 (1992) of 6 January 1992,

"Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions on the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, which urge Israel's commitment to and respect of their provisions,

"Recalling also the decisions of the International Conference of the Red Cross in respect of the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in all circumstances,

"Recalling further its previous resolutions on this question,

"Recalling the different appeals and statements of the International Committee of the Red Cross which point to the continuing violations by the Israeli occupation authorities of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly article 49 thereof, and which call upon those authorities to respect the provisions of the Convention and abide by them,

"Taking into account that the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention undertake, in accordance with article 1 thereof, to respect, and ensure respect for, the Convention in all circumstances,

"1. Reaffirms that the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to Palestinian and all other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and that Israel's longstanding refusal to apply the Convention to those territories has led to the perpetration, by the Israeli authorities, of grave violations of human rights against Palestinian citizens, and calls upon Israel to comply with its

international commitments, to respect the Fourth Geneva Convention and to apply it in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

"2. Urges once more all States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to make every effort to ensure that the Israeli occupation authorities' respect for, and compliance with, the provisions of that Convention in the Palestinian and all other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and to undertake the necessary practical measures to ensure the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation, in accordance with the provisions of article 1 and other relevant articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, as well as article 89 of the First Protocol additional to the four Geneva Conventions; it also urges the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to act in accordance with article 90 of Additional Protocol I by requesting the fact-finding commission referred to therein to investigate the grave violations of international humanitarian law in the Palestinian occupied territory mentioned in this resolution;

"3. Strongly condemns once more the refusal of Israel to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention to Palestine and the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and to their inhabitants, Israel's policies of perpetrating crimes of torture against Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli prisons and concentration camps, and its continued deliberate disregard for the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in contravention of resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights;

"4. Strongly condemns Israel for its grave violations of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, for continuing its policy of deporting Palestinian citizens and of expelling them from their homeland, as recently happened to the Palestinian citizens Ihab Mohammad Ali Al-Ashkar, Sami Attiya Zayed Abu Samhadana, Ahmad Hassan Abdullah Youssef, Marwan Hassan Mohammad Afana, Ra'fat Osman Ali El-Najjar, El-Sheikh Ahmad Mohammad Ali El-Nimer Hawdan, Khader Attiya Khader Mohrez, Iyad Elhami Abdelraouf Gouda, Ghassan Mohammad Soleiman Jarrar, Hassan Abdullah Hassan Sha'ban, Ali Fares Hassan El-Khatib and Omar Nimer Abdelrahman Safi, and calls upon Israel to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 726 (1992) of 6 January 1992, of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights on this question;

"5. Calls upon Israel to refrain immediately from deporting Palestinian citizens from their homeland, and to allow all those

who have been deported since 1967 to return to their homeland without any obstacle or delay;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and all other Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, and to submit a report on progress in its implementation by the Government of Israel to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session;

"7. Decides to consider this question at its forty-ninth session as a matter of high priority.

"27th meeting
"14 February 1992"

"1992/3. Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Recalling that, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to leave any country including his own and to return to his country,

"Reaffirming that the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to Palestinian and all Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Recalling its resolutions 1990/1 of 16 February 1990, and 1991/3 of 15 February 1991,

"Gravely concerned at the large-scale establishment, by the Israeli Government, of settlers, including immigrants, in the occupied territories, which may change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories,

"Taking into account the need to create the stable environment required for progress in the negotiation process following the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid,

"Convinced that the halting by Israel of its policy of settlement would constitute a meaningful contribution to the creation of that environment,

"1. Reaffirms that the installation of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories is illegal and constitutes a violation of the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

"2. Regrets that the Government of Israel has not complied with the provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1990/1 and 1991/3;

"3. Urges the Government of Israel to abstain from installing settlers, including immigrants, in the occupied territories.

"27th meeting
"14 February 1992"

"1992/4. Situation in occupied Palestine

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Article 1 and Article 55 thereof, which affirm the right of peoples to self-determination,

"Guided also by the provisions of article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm that all peoples have the right of self-determination,

"Taking into consideration the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

"Noting Security Council resolutions 183 (1963) of 11 December 1963 and 218 (1965) of 23 November 1965, which affirmed the interpretation of the principle of self-determination as laid down in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, as well as all other resolutions which confirm and define the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination without external interference and to the establishment of their independent State on their national soil,

especially resolutions ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980 and 37/86 E of 20 December 1982,

"Reaffirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

"Bearing in mind the reports and recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People which from 1976 to 1991, have been submitted to the Security council through the General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the provisions of the international covenants and instruments relating to the right to self-determination as an international principle and as a right of all peoples in the world,

"Expressing its grave concern at the persistence of Israel in preventing by force the Palestinian people from enjoying their inalienable rights, in particular their right to self-determination, in defiance of the principles of international law, United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community, which has affirmed and recognized those rights,

"Recalling that the military occupation by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State constitutes an act of aggression and a crime against the peace and security of mankind, according to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974,

"Expressing its grave concern that no just solution has been achieved to the problem of Palestine, which has constituted the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict since 1948,

"Reiterating its grave concern at the military, economic and political support given by some States to Israel, which encourages and supports Israel in its aggressive and expansionist policies, its continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories and the Judaizing of Palestine by establishing Jewish settlements and settling Jewish immigrants therein,

"Affirming that the directing of the immigration of Jews in an organized manner to Israel constitutes support to Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territories and an obstacle to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination,

"1. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation of Palestine constitutes a gross violation of human rights and an act of aggression against the peace and security of mankind;

"2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without external interference and to the establishment of their independent sovereign State on their national soil, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 1947;

"3. Reaffirms also the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, Palestine, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and subsequent relevant resolutions;

"4. Reaffirms further the right of the Palestinian people to recover their rights by all means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with relevant United Nations resolutions, and affirms that the intifadah of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation since 8 December 1987 is a form of legitimate resistance against the military occupation of Palestine and an expression of the Palestinian people's rejection of the occupation and an affirmation of their unshakeable desire for liberation and for the exercise of their inalienable national rights on their national soil;

"5. Reaffirms its support for the call to convene an effective international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and to guarantee the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination without external interference;

"6. Expresses its great interest in the current process of negotiations, which began in Madrid, between the parties to the conflict to resolve the problem of Palestine and of the Middle East; affirms the necessity of this process being based on international legitimacy, on the principles of international law and on the United Nations resolutions concerning the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, at the forefront of which is their right to self-determination, so that the process results in a just solution leading to a just and permanent peace in the Middle East; also affirms that any attempt to achieve a peaceful

solution in the region which is not based on the principles of international law and the United Nations resolutions regarding the Israeli occupation of Palestine and other Arab occupied territories and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination free from external interference will not ensure the achievement of a just, permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

"7. Strongly condemns Israel for its continued occupation of the Palestinian territory, which constitutes the main obstacle to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their national rights, the foremost of which is their right to free self-determination on their national soil;

"8. Calls upon Israel to comply with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and to withdraw from the Palestinian and other Arab territories which it has occupied since 1967 by military force, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

"9. Urges all States, United Nations organs, the specialized agencies and other international organizations to extend their support and assistance to the Palestinian people through their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in their struggle to recover their rights and to liberate their land from Israeli occupation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Government of Israel and to all other Governments, to distribute it on the widest possible scale and to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the convening of its forty-ninth session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the present resolution by the Government of Israel;

"11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation" and to consider the situation in occupied Palestine under that item, as a matter of high priority.

"27th meeting
"14 February 1992"

III. UNRWA DEPLORES ISRAELI ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS IN LEBANON

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 18 February 1992:

"The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Türkmen, today deplored the Israeli air raids on two Palestine refugee camps in southern Lebanon which took place in the early hours of Sunday, 16 February. Sites in Ein el Hilweh and Rashidieh camps were bombed. UNRWA sources confirmed that four civilians were killed and 10 were wounded in the attacks. Refugee shelters also suffered extensive damage.

"UNRWA said that since mid-1991 security in the areas where the camps are located has been provided by the Lebanese Government.

"Ein el Hilweh camp is located south of Sidon and houses 34,000 Palestinian refugees. Rashidieh camp, with a refugee population of 20,000, is located south of Tyre." (see PAL/1772)

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

A. Preparations for Ninth United Nations North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine

The preparatory meeting for the annual North American NGO symposium was held in New York on 3 and 4 February 1992. The 12 members of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC) held consultations with the Bureau and other members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and drafted the following provisional programme for the forthcoming symposium, which was later adopted by the full Committee:

NINTH UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM
ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE
United Nations Headquarters, New York
Wednesday, 24 June to Friday, 26 June 1992

THEME: PEACE IS THE FRUIT OF JUSTICE
25 Years of Occupation -
Overcoming the Obstacles,
Preparing the Way for Palestine

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 24 June

8 a.m.-10 a.m. REGISTRATION

9.45 a.m.-10.45 a.m. OPENING MEETING

Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

Statement by the Chairman of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine;

Statement by the Representative of Palestine.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. PLENARY I:

Panel: 25 Years of Occupation: Overcoming the Obstacles

1. The peace process;
2. Occupation update;
3. Israeli Settlements;
4. United States policy.

1 p.m.-3 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

3 p.m.-5 p.m. SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS:

1. Teach-in on Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
2. Resource Fair - videos, publications, etc.

5 p.m.-7 p.m. REGIONAL, CONSTITUENCY AND ISSUE WORKING GROUPS.

Thursday, 25 June

10 a.m.-11.30 a.m. PLENARY II:

Panel: Preparing the Way for Palestine

1. Needs of Palestinians in hardship areas;
2. Health and human rights;
3. Implementing United Nations resolutions-Lessons from Namibia.

11.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS:

"Overcoming Obstacles, Providing Protection"

1. Defending Human Rights: children, prisoners, expellees;
2. Ending United States aid for occupation;
3. Land, water and settlements;
4. Misinformation and disinformation.

1.30 p.m.-3 p.m. LUNCH BREAK.

3 p.m.-5 p.m. SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS:

"Preparing the Way for Palestine"

5. Supporting Palestinian institution-building;
6. Supporting Israeli peace projects;
7. Gulf war aftermath: Needs of Palestinians in hardship areas;
8. Implementing United Nations resolutions.

5 p.m.-7 p.m. REGIONAL, CONSTITUENCY AND ISSUE WORKING GROUPS.

Friday, 26 June

10 a.m.-11.30 a.m. SIMULTANEOUS SKILLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS:

1. Lobbying/letter writing;
2. Media;
3. Fund raising;
4. Educating the public.

11.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Workshop reports;
Consideration and adoption of the Draft Declaration;
Election of the North American Coordinating Committee.

12.30 p.m.-1 p.m. CLOSING MEETING:

Statement by the Chairman of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine;

Statement by the Representative of the Paelstine Committee for NGOs;

Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

1 p.m.-2 p.m. LUNCH BREAK.

2 p.m.-5 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting of newly elected NACC

B. Information received from NGOs

In the course of February, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. ICCP Newsletter No. 40, available from: the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150, route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland.

2. Newsletter of the Middle East Justice Network, available from: P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, MA 02238, United States of America.

3. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan, Boite Postale 130, 75463 Paris CEDEX 10, France.

4. Middle East International, bi-weekly publication, available from: P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

5. Palestine Solidarité, bi-monthly bulletin of l'Association Medicale Franco-Palestinienne, available from: 14, rue de Nanteuil, 75015 Paris, France.

6. Women for Women Political Prisoners, available from: P.O. Box 8537, Jerusalem 91083.

7. Another Viewpoint, commentary available from: AVP, 604 Barbera Place, Davis, California 95616, United States of America.

8. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

9. Une Terre, Deux Peuples, publication of the Association pour l'union entre les peuples juif et palestinien, available from: C.P. 43, 1247 Anières, Geneva Switzerland.

10. P.R.C.S. Newsletter, newsletter of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, available from Information Department, P.O. Box 5386, Nicosia, Cyprus.

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DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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92-22453

I. COMMITTEE ADOPTS PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992

At its 186th meeting on 18 March 1992, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People adopted the following programme of work for 1992 (see A/AC. 183/1992/CRP.1/Rev.1):

"**I. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

"1. The Committee's mandate for 1992 is contained in General Assembly resolutions 46/74 A, B and C of 11 December 1991, the relevant parts of which are paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 46/74 A, paragraph 2 of resolution 46/74 B, and paragraph 2 of resolution 46/74 C.

"2. In paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 46/74 A, the General Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendations and requested it to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate.

"3. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution the Committee is authorized to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, including representation at conferences and meetings and the sending of delegations, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of seminars and symposia and meetings for non-governmental organizations as it may consider necessary, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize public opinion in Europe and North America, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session and thereafter.

"4. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution the Committee is requested to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and creating a more favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations, and to take the necessary steps to expand its contacts with those organizations.

"5. Resolution 46/74 B deals with the work programme of the Division for Palestinian Rights. In paragraph 2, the

Secretary-General is requested to provide the Division with the necessary resources, including a computer-based information system, and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance.

"6. Resolution 46/74 C deals with the programme of work of the Department of Public Information. In paragraph 2, the Department is requested, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the remainder of the biennium 1992-1993, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America.

"II. PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992

"7. In the recommendations contained in its report to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in 1991, the Committee welcomed the convening, under the sponsorship of the United States of America and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, of a conference for the achievement of a comprehensive peace based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and on the land-for-peace principle, and expressed the hope that the role of the United Nations would be generally intensified in this process. The Committee recalled that an international consensus has already been achieved on the essential principles for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine based on internationally recognized principles and United Nations resolutions. Those essential principles were reaffirmed most recently in General Assembly resolution 46/75 of 11 December 1991.

"8. The Committee also stressed the utmost urgency of taking all necessary measures to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention and numerous resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Committee called in particular on the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and the United Nations system as a whole to ensure that Israel abides by its obligations as the occupying Power and in particular, to implement Security Council resolution 681 (1990) and subsequent resolutions.

"9. The Committee expressed the deepest concern with regard to Israel's settlement policy and practice, and called on the Security Council to review the matter urgently and to undertake appropriate measures, in conformity with the Geneva Convention and the relevant principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to deal with the situation.

"10. In addition, the Committee reaffirmed that the United Nations has a duty and responsibility to render all assistance necessary to promote the social and economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory in preparation for the full exercise of national sovereignty, and reiterated its call upon the United Nations system and the international community as a whole to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"11. In the light of the above and of the ongoing efforts to advance the peace process, the Committee has decided to prioritize the following issues in its activities during 1992:

"(a) The imperative need to end human rights violations and to ensure the international protection of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolutions, and the promotion of measures to be taken by the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to ensure respect for its provisions;

"(b) The adverse impact of Israel's settlement policy and practice on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the achievement of a just settlement of the question of Palestine;

"(c) The deteriorating economic situation of the Palestinian people and the urgent need for international assistance to promote the independent social and economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

"(d) The promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region based on internationally recognized principles and United Nations resolutions, and the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations.

"III. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

"A. Action by the Committee

"12. In its report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, the Committee stated that it had decided to do everything possible to strengthen its role in monitoring the situation of Palestinians under occupation and promoting the adoption of concrete measures by the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention. In accordance with past practice and with paragraph 3 of resolution 46/74 A, the Committee will continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights, and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate. The Committee Chairman, through his letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Committee will continue to draw attention to urgent developments affecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

"13. In its recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, the Committee once again extended an invitation to all Governments, including those of the United States and Israel, to participate in its work and in the events organized under its auspices. The Committee requests its Chairman, as in the past, to address a letter to the Secretary-General requesting him to inform all States of the Committee's concerns and to convey the Committee's invitation to them to participate in, and contribute to, its work. Consultations will also be held with interested representatives of Member States in this regard.

"14. The Committee intends to develop its role further as the United Nations organ primarily responsible for the promotion and exercise of Palestinian rights in accordance with international instruments and United Nations resolutions. In particular, the Committee will seek to follow up on political developments and on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory by establishing concrete and ongoing contacts with the Secretary-General and relevant officials in the United Nations system, with the Security Council and other relevant United Nations organs and with government representatives as appropriate.

"15. The Committee also envisages organizing meetings focused on one theme in order to examine in depth each of the priority issues mentioned earlier and to exert a direct and effective influence on the course of action of Governments and intergovernmental and other bodies in that regard. The groundwork for such meetings should be laid carefully in advance through appropriate consultation with all concerned so as to ensure high-level expertise, political participation and adequate follow-up. The Committee will invite prominent personalities, experts and others for the purpose of such meetings or for consultations with the Committee whenever considered appropriate, by using existing resources, including funds earmarked for the use of the Committee in section 4.A of the 1992-1993 programme budget.

"B. Seminars

"16. Budgetary provision has been made for seminars to be held in the following regions in 1992: Asia (held at Nicosia from 20 to 24 January 1992); Europe; Latin America; North America. The North American Seminar is scheduled to be held in New York on 22 and 23 June, immediately preceding the North American NGO Symposium, in accordance with past practice. Venues and dates for the European and Latin American seminars remain to be decided. [1/]

"17. The Committee will continue to review its recent experience with regard to the format, topics and invitees at the regional seminars, in the light of the priority issues to be addressed in 1992, in order to achieve maximum effectiveness and impact.

1/ At its 187th meeting on 29 April, the Committee was informed that the Government of Malta had agreed to host the European Seminar, which has been tentatively scheduled to take place from 27 to 30 July 1992.

"C. Cooperation with NGOs, including regional symposia and international meeting of NGOs

"18. Budgetary provision has been made for the holding of NGO symposia in Asia (held at Nicosia together with the Seminar); Latin America, North America; Europe; and for an International NGO Meeting as well as for preparatory meetings for the North American Symposium and the International Meeting. The date and venue for the Latin American NGO Symposium still have to be decided. The preparatory meeting for the North American NGO Symposium was held at New York on 3 and 4 February and recommended that the Symposium be held in Washington, D.C., subject to the agreement of the Government of the United States. The Bureau of the Committee explored that possibility and subsequently the Committee decided to hold the Symposium in New York from 24 to 26 June 1992. The European NGO Symposium and the International NGO Meeting will be held consecutively at Geneva from 24 to 28 August; the preparatory meeting will also be held at Geneva on 30 and 31 March 1992.

"19. In addition to its cooperation with NGOs in the preparation and holding of the above-mentioned meetings, the Committee has requested the Division for Palestinian Rights to ascertain from NGOs what specific supports might be usefully provided in order to help them improve their effectiveness.

"D. Studies and publications

"20. The programme of studies and publications of the Division for Palestinian Rights for 1992 includes the following:

"(a) Monthly bulletins covering action by the Committee, other United Nations organs and agencies, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with the question of Palestine;

"(b) Reports of regional seminars, as well as regional symposia and international NGO events;

"(c) Special bulletin on the commemoration in 1991 of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;

"(d) A compilation of relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 1991;

"(e) Monthly and bimonthly monitoring reports on developments relating to the question of Palestine, as reflected in the Arabic, English and Hebrew press for the use of the Committee.

"21. The Division will continue to update periodically its information notes on the work of the Committee and the Division, and on the activities of the non-governmental organizations on the question of Palestine.

"22. The Division will continue to prepare monthly issues of the publication entitled 'Approaches towards the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine'.

"23. In the course of 1992, the Division will continue the work of updating studies prepared in the Division during the late 1970s and early 1980s. The Division has finalized the draft of the study entitled 'Water resources of the occupied Palestinian territory' and has sent it to members and observers of the Committee for comments. The Committee requested the Division to give priority to updating the study on 'Acquisition of land in Palestine' during the year. The Committee, in consultation with the Division, will also continue to review the format and presentation of the various publications, and to evaluate their dissemination, so as to achieve maximum effectiveness and impact.

"E. Computer-based information system

"24. The Committee stresses the high importance it attaches to the establishment of the computer-based information system as soon as possible. Initial steps continue to be taken by the Division, in cooperation with the relevant services in the United Nations Secretariat, for the acquisition of the necessary equipment and software within existing financial resources and by utilizing any savings in other parts of the programme, and for determining the exact requirements of the system. A preliminary study indicates that, in order to become fully operational, the system would necessitate an additional appropriation for extra staff, the details of which will be made available to the Bureau in the near future.

"F. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

"25. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People will be observed on Monday, 30 November 1992. The Committee has decided that the observance at Headquarters, United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna and elsewhere should follow the same format as in 1991.

"26. As in the past, the Committee decided to invite the Office of the Permanent Observer of Palestine to provide an exhibit to be displayed at United Nations Headquarters during the week of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People."

* * * * *

II. UNRWA PROTESTS HARASSMENT OF ITS STAFF BY ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 13 March 1992 (see PAL/1773):

"The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has protested to the Israeli authorities over an incident in Ramallah, West Bank, on 12 March, in which border police threw a sound bomb and tear-gas canister in the direction of two UNRWA staff members.

"The incident occurred after an UNRWA international official and her assistant, on duty in Ramallah just before noon, came upon a clash between local residents and Israeli border police. The border police pushed and verbally abused the UNRWA international official. A sound bomb was then lobbed behind the Agency vehicle she was using.

"Some 45 minutes later, a tear-gas canister was fired over the head of the same UNRWA official from a distance of approximately two metres. It landed near her assistant and both were severely affected. She required treatment at Ramallah hospital and was later released.

"UNRWA's Field Office in the West Bank immediately protested to the Civil Administration.

"Today, UNRWA headquarters made a <u>démarche</u> to the Israeli Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Vienna requesting that the incident be investigated with a view to preventing harassment of UNRWA personnel in the future."

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

A. Preparatory meeting of NGOs recommends programmes for International NGO Meeting and European NGO Symposium

A preparatory meeting for the International NGO meeting and the Sixth European NGO Symposium took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 30 and 31 March 1992. The Meeting was attended by all the members of the International and the European Coordinating Committees for NGOs. The provisional programmes recommended by the preparatory meeting were later adopted by the full Committee and are reproduced below:

1. SIXTH UNITED NATIONS EUROPEAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Palais des Nations, Geneva
24-25 August 1992

Theme: Working for Peace - European Coordination

Provisional programme

Monday, 24 August

8.30 a.m.-9.30 a.m.	Registration
9.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m.	Opening meeting:
	Statements by:
	- Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;
	- Representative of Palestine;
	- Chairman of the European Regional Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine.
10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	- Plenary meeting:
	The responsibilities of European governmental and non-governmental bodies towards the Palestinian people.

12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.	Lunch break.
2.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.	Workshops:
	- Workshop I: Lobbying of Governments and Parliamentarians;
	- Workshop II: Raising of public awareness of the Palestine issue by European NGOs.

Tuesday, 25 August

	Development for Peace - European Coordination
	Plenary meeting:
9.30 a.m.-11 a.m.	Report by the ECCP members on the Committee's activities during the last year (August 1991-August 1992).
11 a.m.-11.30 a.m.	Break.
11.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Question-and-answer session with the panel; comments by Network NGOs.
12.30 p.m.-1.30 p.m.	Reports on ongoing projects initiated at the last Symposium.
1.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.	Lunch break.
2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m.	Report of workshops;
	Coordination and adoption of the final declaration.
4.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.	Closing meeting.

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2. NINTH UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Palais des Nations, Geneva
26-28 August 1992

Theme: Protection and Statehood

Provisional programme

Wednesday, 26 August

8 a.m.-10 a.m.	Registration
10 a.m.-11 a.m.	Opening meeting.
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Plenary I: Protection. Plenary to begin with a multi-media presentation (video or slides); Topics to be addressed include: Land, water and settlements; Human rights; United Nations role and sanctions; Refugees.
1 p.m.-3 p.m.	Lunch break.
3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Working groups and task forces: 1. Land, water and settlements; 2. Protection needs of children; 3. Human rights (especially deportations; 4. Family Reunification Campaign; 5. Protection needs of women; 6. Arts and culture.

Thursday, 27 August

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Plenary II: Statehood:

	Topics to be discussed include: Political initiatives; Palestine institution-building; Regional security and disarmament; Jerusalem.
1 p.m.-3 p.m.	Lunch break.
3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Working groups and task forces: 1. Supporting education; 2. Demilitarization and regional security; 3. Mobilizing United Nations support; 4. Housing rights; 5. Water planning; 6. Jerusalem.

Friday, 28 August

9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Plenary III: The NGO Process (ICCP): 1. Reports from the regions; 2. NGO Networking; 3. Introduce Final Declaration.
12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.	Lunch break.
2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m.	Wrap up: 1. Consideration and adoption of the Final Declaration;
4.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.	2. Closing meeting.

* * * * *

B. Information received from NGOs

In the course of March, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. Newsletter of the Middle East Justice Network, available from: P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, MA 02238, United States of America.

2. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan, Boite Postale 130, 75463 Paris CEDEX 10, France.

3. Middle East International, bi-weekly publication, available from: P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

4. Palestine Solidarité, bi-monthly bulletin of l'Association Medicale Franco-Palestinnienne, available from: 14, rue de Nanteuil, 75015 Paris, France.

5. Women for Women Political Prisoners, available from: P.O. Box 8537, Jerusalem 91083.

6. Another Viewpoint, commentary available from: AVP, 604 Barbera Place, Davis, California 95616, United States of America.

7. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

8. Une Terre, Deux Peuples, publication of the Association pour l'union entre les peuples juif et palestinien, available from: C.P. 43, 1247 Anières, Geneva, Switzerland.

9. P.R.C.S., newsletter of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, available from Information Department, P.O. Box 5386, Nicosia, Cyprus.

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I. SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNS ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN RAFAH, URGES ISRAEL TO ABIDE BY GENEVA CONVENTION, ASKS FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL'S GOOD OFFICES

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the members of the Council, at its 3065th meeting, on 4 April 1992, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the occupied Arab territories":

> "The members of the Security Council are gravely concerned by the continued deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip, especially by the current serious situation in Rafah in which several Palestinians have been killed and many more injured.
>
> "The members of the Security Council condemn all these acts of violence at Rafah. They urge maximum restraint in order to bring the violence to an end.
>
> "The members of the Security Council urge Israel to abide at all times by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to respect and to act in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. The members of the Security Council are concerned that any escalation of violence would have serious implications for the peace process, especially at a time when negotiations to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace are under way.
>
> "The members of the Security Council request the Secretary-General to use his good offices, in accordance with resolution 681 (1990), regarding this situation concerning Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation." (see S/23783)

II. SECRETARY-GENERAL DEPLORES DEATHS IN GAZA STRIP AND APPEALS FOR END TO BLOODSHED IN PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

The following statement, attributable to the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutrós Boutrós-Ghali, was issued on 2 April 1992:

> "The Secretary-General has learned with consternation of yesterday's violent clashes in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafa and the nearby refugee camp. He deplores the death of the several Palestinians who were shot during the clashes in which scores of people were also wounded. Yesterday's incidents were yet another tragic illustration of the dangers inherent in the long, drawn out Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
>
> "The Secretary-General appeals for an end to the bloodshed and hopes that the present tensions will not escalate into further violence. This tragic situation which comes at a time when negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict are under way, can only serve to hamper that process."
> (see SG/SM/4725)

III. COMMITTEE APPROVES PROGRAMME FOR NORTH AMERICAN SEMINAR

At its 187th meeting, on 29 April 1992, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People approved the following programme for the annual North American Seminar on the Question of Palestine:

UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

United Nations Headquarters, New York
22-23 June 1992

Theme: Enforcing the Fourth Geneva Convention for ensuring the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem

Provisional programme

Monday, 22 June 1992

8.30 a.m.-9.30 a.m.	Registration.
9.45-1 p.m.	Morning meeting:
	Statements by:
	- President of the General Assembly;
	- United Nations Secretary-General;
	- Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people;
	- President of the Security Council;
	- Representative of Palestine;
	- Representative of UNRWA;
	- Representatives of Governments.
	Afternoon meeting:
3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Statements by:
	- Representatives of Governments (continued);
	- Representatives of inter-governmental organizations;

- Experts.

Tuesday, 23 June 1992

9.45 a.m.-11 a.m.	Statements by: - Experts (continued); - NGO representative.
11.15 a.m.-1 p.m.	Consultation with experts regarding Conclusions and Recommendations (closed meeting).
5 p.m.-6 p.m.	Consideration and adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations; Concluding statements by: - Representative of Palestine; - Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

A number of prominent experts in the field of humanitarian law from the North American and other regions will make presentations at the Seminar and all States have been invited to attend.

IV. UNRWA DEPLORES ISRAELI USE OF FORCE IN GAZA

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 2 April 1992 (see PAL/1776):

> "The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Turkmen, has expressed distress over the killing of four Palestine refugees and the wounding of at least 70 others yesterday as a result of the indiscriminate

use of force by Israeli security personnel against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

"The shooting took place in the market area of Rafah refugee camp, which was extremely crowded on the eve of the Muslim feast of Eid el-Fitr. The Israeli forces in two jeeps sped into the market in pursuit of four men allegedly involved in throwing a hand grenade at a Border Police post. A petrol bomb and stones were thrown at the Israeli vehicles.

"UNRWA and hospital ambulances removed the wounded for emergency treatment at UNRWA clinics and local hospitals, but some were delayed by Israeli security forces in performing their duties. UNRWA international and local staff remained in the area until midnight to ensure that medical services could be provided to the injured.

"This incident produced one of the heaviest tolls of Palestinian casualties since December 1987. It comes at a time when violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is rising to dangerous levels and increasing numbers of Palestinians are victims of live fire."

V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of April, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. Libertas, newsletter of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, available from: 63, rue de Brésoles, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1V7, Canada.

2. Democratic Palestine, quarterly publication providing analysis pertinent to the Palestinian liberation struggle. Available from: Box 30192, Damascus, Syria.

3. The Middle East, monthly publication; available from: IC Publications Ltd., 7 Coldbath Square, London EC1R4LQ United Kingdom.

4. Bulletin of Regional Cooperation in the Middle East, the Search for Common Ground, available from: 2005 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Lower Level, Washington, D.C. 20036-1011, United States of America.

5. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

6. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan, Boite Postale 130, 75463 Paris CEDEX 10, France.

7. Middle East International, bi-weekly publication, available from: P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

8. The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, monthly publication, available from: P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

9. Newsletter on Freedom of the Press, issued monthly by the Forum of Action for Freedom of the Press and the Re-opening of Derech Hanitzotz/Tarik Al Shanana. Available from: P.O. Box 1575, Jerusalem.

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